

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 536

By Hawk

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Coach Caine Ballard and the 2011 Greeneville High School football team for winning the TSSAA Class 4A BlueCross Bowl championship.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those student athletes who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as true sportsmen of whom all can be proud; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2011 Greeneville High School (GHS) football team have proven themselves to be the ablest of competitors and, as such, deserving of the highest regard; and

WHEREAS, under the astute leadership of Coach Caine Ballard, the 2011 team propelled itself to a 14-1 record in the regular season and reached the TSSAA Class 4A BlueCross Bowl for the third consecutive year, where they faced the Maplewood High School team on the field of Tucker Stadium at Tennessee Tech University on December 3; and

WHEREAS, the Greene Devils dominated the Maplewood team, capping an already-stellar season with a 37-0 win and securing their second consecutive state championship; and

WHEREAS, after going undefeated 15-0 in the 2010 season, the 2011 team had a reputation to live up to this season, particularly with twenty-two seniors on the team looking to end their high school careers on an incredibly high note; and

WHEREAS, the team won its season opener against Science Hill High School followed by a 14-0 loss against the Morristown-Hamblen High School West Trojans; and

WHEREAS, Coach Ballard knew coming into the season that the team was going to be incredibly strong on defense and he hoped it would be enough to secure a win against the West Trojans, but the offense struggled during the game: the team was without two of its starters,

linebacker Austin Perkins and lineman Ethan Malone, and had a very young safety, Trevor Wright, factors which proved detrimental in that game; and

WHEREAS, however, after that loss, the offense quickly caught up and more than proved they were equal to the task for the rest of the regular season, guided in part by the athletic prowess of junior quarterback Tanner Stewart and senior tailback Taylor Shuffler; and

WHEREAS, the Greene Devils also unleashed a secret weapon during the season: senior Jamel Hall, whose 6'0", 255-lb. frame, coupled with his sheer speed, made him a nearly-unstoppable force in the backfield; and

WHEREAS, after their loss to the West Trojans, the team never scored less than 41 points the rest of the season, and the defense gave up only 21 points on one occasion, in the semifinal game against Giles County, which the Greene Devils won 42-21; and

WHEREAS, by the time the state championship took place, it was no surprise that the GHS team went on to beat Maplewood 37-0, effectively ending the high school careers of twenty-two Greene Devils seniors, who miraculously achieved 51 wins in their four seasons on the team, a feat that not many players can boast of, and one which these seniors will surely never forget; and

WHEREAS, for some of these seniors, the ball won't stop on the high school field; GHS player Terrell Rollins, named the State's Class AA Lineman of the Year, has been offered a chance to play college ball by Wofford College and has been shown interest by Austin Peay State University; and

WHEREAS, Jamel Hall has also seen offers from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Tennessee State University, and several other GHS seniors are getting looks from National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and Division II schools; and

WHEREAS, the Greeneville Devils football team, in both victory and defeat, has displayed the tenacity, camaraderie and skill befitting one of the State's finest athletic teams; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the 2011 Greeneville High School football team, not only for the

team's championship win but for the players' superior sportsmanship and the joy they have brought to their fellow students and the people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Coach Caine Ballard and the 2011 Greeneville High School football team for their heralded success on the football gridiron and extend to them our best wishes for future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.